

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /132 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND:ASCFULLER:NLF
APPROVED BY ARA/AND:ASCFU-LER
ARA/AND/P - DKEMP

-----028380 010306Z /64

R 312019Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV ENRG PE

SUBJECT: DECREE LAW PERMITTING RESUMPTION OF GULF OPERA-
TIONS IN PERU

REF: LIMA 6146

1. NESTOR ORTIZ, GULF CONSULTANT IN WASHINGTON, REPORTS
THAT GULF/CORAL GABLES IS OPPOSED TO DECREE LAW APPROACH
DESCRIBED PARA 2 REFTEL, PERMITTING RESUMPTION OF GULF
OPERATIONS IN PERU. CORAL GABLES INTERPRETATION OF
PROPOSED DECREE LAW DIFFERS FROM THAT OF THEIR LIMA LAWYER,
REPORTED REFTEL. IT IS CORAL GABLES' UNDERSTANDING THAT
DECREE LAW WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT MEAN ALL GULF OPERATIONS
WOULD BE PERMITTED BUT RATHER THAT A NEW DECREE LAW WOULD
BE NECESSARY FOR EACH DISCRETE ACTIVITY BEYOND CITED GULF
PURCHASE OF PERUVIAN RESIDUAL FUEL.

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2. ORTIZ ALSO REPORTED THAT A DECREE LAW GRANTING BLANKET
PERMISSION TO GULF TO RESUME OPERATIONS HAS SO FAR NOT
PROVED ACCEPTABLE TO HIGHER REACHES OF GOP. GULF, HOWEVER,
INTERESTED IN PUSHING JUST SUCH A LAW, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

3. GULF CONCERNED NO; ONLY ABOUT COMPANY'S TRADE IN OIL

PRODUCTS IN PERU BUT ALSO ABOUT OPERATION OF KEWANEE

INDUSTRIES, NOW 100 OWNED BY GULF. FURTHERMORE, IN RECENT HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW OF GULF OIL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ABROAD, CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WAS FOCUSED ON PERU. GULF MIGHT CONSIDER FORMULATING PROPOSAL TO GOP TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IN PERU UNDER LIBERALIZED PETROLEUM REGIME THERE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WORLD BANK (SEE GULF LETTER TO AMBASSADOR OF MARCH 1, 1978). IT WOULD HOWEVER, ORTIZ ADDED, BE DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GULF TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH A PROPOSAL UNLESS BLANKET DECREE LAW WERE IMPLEMENTED GRANTING GULF GENERAL RIGHT TO RESUME OPERATIONS IN PERU.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY TO INQUIRE INTO STATUS OF PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED DECREE LAW AND POSSIBILITY OF PASSAGE OF MORE GENERAL LAW. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVESTMENT LAW, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, NATIONALIZATION, LEGISLATIVE BILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE192560
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ASCFULLER:NLF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780313-1171
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978072/aaaaabvm.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59f7e66c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LIMA 6146
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1885368
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECREE LAW PERMITTING RESUMPTION OF GULF OPERA- TIONS IN PERU
TAGS: EINV, ENRG, PE, GULF
To: LIMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59f7e66c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014